

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
OMB-01 ACDA-12 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
/084 W

-----114321 081406Z /72

O 081303Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4418
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IL IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAKAR 4381

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, SG
SUBJECT: AFRICAN AIRLIFT -- REQUEST FOR AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO
SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) DAKAR 4333, (B) DAKAR 4349, (C) STATE 143838,
(D) STATE 139907, (E) ABIDJAN 5426

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1. OFFICIAL WRITTEN REQUEST OF GOS DATED 6 JUNE 78,
REQUESTING THAT USG TRANSPORT ONE BATTALION (600 MEN) AND
EQUIPMENT TO AND FROM ZAIRE WAS CONVEYED IN REFS A AND B.
2. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM TO RESPOND
AFFIRMATIVELY TO SENEGALESE REQUEST.

3. PARA 3 OF REFTTEL C, SAYING IT IS DEPT'S UNDER-
STANDING THAT IT WAS AGREED IN PARIS MEETING JUNE 5
THAT FRENCH WOULD HANDLE ALL OR MOST OF LIFT OF AFRICAN
PERSONNEL IN FRENCH AIRCRAFT HAS US CONFUSED. (FRENCH
CHARGE HERE TOLD US JUNE 8 HE KNOWS NOTHING OF ANY
SUCH ARRANGEMENTS.)

4. FROM VERY BEGINNING OF THIS OPERATION,
TRIGGERED BY REF D, WE APPROACHED GOS ON BASIC ASSUMP-
TION THAT USG WOULD BE PROVIDING AIRLIFT. ALL OUR
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SENEGALESE OFFICIALS HAVE CON-
TINUED TO ASSUME USG AIRLIFT WAS A GIVEN. GOS HAS
PLAYED RECOMMENDED SCENARIO TO THE LETTER, PROVIDING
USG WITH WRITTEN REQUEST AND SPECIFICS OF SENEGALESE
CONTINGENT, PUTTING THE WHOLE IN A STRONGLY OAU CONTEXT.
YESTERDAY, JUNE 7 PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF WENT
BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, GAVE SPIRITED DEFENSE OF
SENDING SENEGALESE TROOP CONTINGENT TO ZAIRE, AND
OBTAINED VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BACKING HIS GOVERNMENT'S
ACTION.

5. SENEGALESE HAVE NOW TOLD US (SEE FOLLOWING PARA)
THAT FIRST CONTINGENT OF THEIR BATTALION WITH 150 MEN
AND EQUIPMENT, WILL BE READY TO GO ON MONDAY JUNE 12
WITH REMAINING MEN SCHEDULED FOR PICK-UP LATER SAME
WEEK. WE BELIEVE THAT GOS HAS RESPONDED IN MOST
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POSITIVE AND TIMELY FASHION TO SITUATION IN SHABA AND
TO CALL FOR HELP FROM OAU MEMBER STATES, AND THAT USG
SHOULD NOW MOVE FORWARD AND FULFILL ITS STRONG AND
SUPPORTIVE INITIAL COMMITMENT TO TRANSPORT SENEGAL'S
MEN AND EQUIPMENT.

6. SUPPLEMENTING ABOVE, DEFENSE ATTACHE WAS CALLED OVER
TO SENEGALESE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AM 8 JUNE 78 BY
CHIEF OF STAFF SENEGALESE ARMED FORCES AND GIVEN LIST OF
TROOPS AND MATERIAL FOR TRANSPORT TO ZAIRE. IT IS AS
FOLLOWS: 596 TROOPS, 8 VEHICLES (5 M-151 JEEPS, 3 VLRA,
435 TRUCKS, TOTAL 29.2 TONS), AND 54 TONS OF MATERIAL,
AMMUNITION AND FOOD FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 596 TROOPS AND
83.2 TONS OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL. IN ADDITION 150
TROOPS AND ALL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE READY FOR
PICK-UP BY 1600 12 JUNE 1978. THE 446 REMAINING TROOPS
WILL BE READY FOR PICK-UP SATURDAY 17 JUNE 1978. THE 17
JUNE PICK-UP DATE COULD POSSIBLY BE MOVED UP A LITTLE IF
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. THE CHIEF OF STAFF ASKED AT WHAT
TIME WOULD THE FIRST US C-141 ARRIVE TO BEGIN LOADING THE
FIRST CONTINGENT. DATT REPLIED THAT THIS INFORMATION
WOULD BE RELAYED TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF AS SOON AS IT

WAS RECEIVED.

7 WE STRONGLY AGREE WITH ABIDJAN'S 5426.
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Message Attributes

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